



City of Santa Barbara
Airport Department

Memorandum

DATE: November 19, 2008
TO: Airport Commission
FROM: Karen Ramsdell, Airport Director
SUBJECT: Liaison To Airport Commission

Recommendation:

That Commission recommend to City Council to extend an invitation to the City of Goleta to appoint a liaison to attend Airport Commission meetings.

Discussion:

Background

On November 5, 1974 Santa Barbara voters approved Charter Section 812 creating an Airport Commission. Municipal Code Chapter 18.44 delineates Commission's powers and duties, the number of and qualifications of members, and terms of office. Airport Commission is comprised of seven members of whom no less than four must be City residents. Members serve terms of four years. Currently, four members are City residents. Commission has the power and duty to advise City Council on the following matters: appointment of Airport Director, contracts, agreements, and leases, rules and regulations, financial plans and budgets, and airport development plans.

The Airport has been owned and operated by the City of Santa Barbara since 1941. Located about 8 miles from the City limits, the City annexed the airport in 1961. Until 2004 the Airport was surrounded by the unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County. In 2004 a portion of the unincorporated area was incorporated as the City of Goleta.

Proposed Liaison

While the Airport is an important regional transportation asset, its operations also affect the City of Goleta. Santa Barbara City Council has expressed a desire to maintain a positive working relationship with the City of Goleta. Airport staff has worked cooperatively with Goleta and County staffs on a number of issues and projects. Consistent communication between the agencies is important to maintaining a working

relationship at both Council and staff levels. The City of Goleta has expressed interest in appointing a liaison to attend Airport Commission meetings to share information on current projects and issues. The Santa Barbara City Council appoints Council liaisons to all City boards and commissions. Councilmember Grant House is currently Council's liaison to Airport Commission.

Commission Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation

An ad hoc committee of Airport Commissioners met and considered Goleta's request. The Commissioners recognized the benefit of having a consistent conduit for the exchange of information and concerns between the two agencies. As the relationship between the Airport and Goleta is relatively new, they felt that starting with a liaison would allow for the relationship between Santa Barbara and Goleta to mature and, in the future, Council may wish to consider a more formal relationship.

The committee proposes that Commission recommend that the Santa Barbara City Council invite the Goleta City Council to appoint a liaison to Airport Commission. It is proposed that the Commission's agenda list the liaisons for both Santa Barbara and Goleta and that there be a standing item on the Commission agenda for Liaison Reports.